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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fiftieth session
Item 12 (b) (iii) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN OR MAY BE CONCERNED: REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS RELATING, INTER ALIA, TO: ENCOURAGEMENT OF UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Written statement submitted by North-South XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 July 1998]

1. The United Nations and the specialized agencies are endeavouring to secure acceptance of the various human rights instruments by States. However, the major Powers which control the Security Council and which, in some circumstances, impose their decisions and their authority ostensibly in order to ensure respect for international law and human rights are not always entitled to exercise that function. For example, the United States, quite apart from being significantly in arrears of payment of its financial contribution to the United Nations and having deserted UNESCO, is also one of the States that have ratified a very small number of international conventions relating to human rights.

2. The United States, while considering itself to be above common international law, is nevertheless endeavouring to impose American legislation (such as the Helms-Burton and d'Amato Acts) on the rest of the world.

3. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should call to order States, such as the United States, which are showing indifference, not to say contempt, for human rights instruments and should urge them to ratify those various conventions.

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